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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY CHIEF DE MARTINO DEFINES PARTY' S ROLE IN
PRAGMATIC TERMS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN UNUSUAL DECLARATION UPON SOCIALISM' S ROLE IN
MODERN ITALY, SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO HAS URGED PARTY
TO RENOUNCE MAXIMALIST TENDENCIES OF PAST AND STRIVE TO ACHIEVE
GREATER HUMAN LIBERTY AND ECONOMIC WELFARE THROUGH PRACTICAL
COLLABORATION WITH NON- SOCIALIST FORCES. ALTHOUGH THUS FAR
RECEIVING
LITTLE PUBLIC ATTENTION, STATEMENT LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR POLICY
REVISIONS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED SHOULD PBI EVENTUALLY RETURN TO
GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED BOTH IN SOCIALIST PARTY MONTHLY MONDO
OPERAIO AND IN PARTY DAILY AVANTI (MAY 6), SOCIALIST PARTY
SECRETARY FRANCESCO DE MARTINO HAS ISSUED MAJOR DECLARATION UPON
LONG- RANGE GOALS OF ITALIAN SOCIALISM AND THE PRACTICAL MEANS OF
PURSUING THEM. " DUTIES WHICH SOCIALIST MOVEMENT MUST TODAY ASSUME
IN AN INDISUTRIALIZED COUNTRY OF WESTERN EUROPE", DE MARTINO
BEGAN, " ARE EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND QUITE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE OF
THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT IN OTHER HISTORIC PERIODS". EVEN THOUGH THE
ECONOMIC SYSTEM REMAINS FUNDAMENTALLY CAPITALISTIC, " WORKERS IN
GENERAL AND SOCIALISTS IN PARTICULAR ARE PRIMARILY BURDENED WITH
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESERVING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND
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THEREFORE MUST ASSUME FUNCTIONS IN GOVERNMENT IF THE POLITICAL SITUATION REQUIRES OR MAKES IT POSSIBLE". THUS, DE MARTINO CONTINUED, PRESENT ITALIAN CONDITIONS IMPOSE UPON PARTY DUTY TO COLLABORATE WITH NON- SOCIALIST PARTIES, AND PARTICULARLY WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, STRIVING BOTH TO ASSURE GOOD GOVERNMENT AND GREATER PROSPERITY, AND AT SAME TIME TO ACHIEVE PROFOUND CHANGES IN CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

3. " THESE TWO GOALS ARE NOT ALWAYS RECONCILABLE", DE MARTINO CONCEDED, AS " THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL AND COLLECTIVE VALUES DOES NOT ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH THE RACE TO PROSPERITY AND TO AN EXPANSION OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION". THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF RECONCILING THESE AIMS BECAME CLEAR DURING THE CENTER- LEFT EXPERIENCE, AND THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMING MEANS BY WHICH THE CENTER- LEFT SOUGHT TO OVERCOME THEM FREQUENTLY DID NOT PRODUCE SATISFACTORY RESULTS. THEREFORE, DE MARTINO DECLARED, " THERE IS NEED FOR US TO PROCEED TO A PROFOUND EXAMINATION OF THAT EXPERIENCE, TO A COURAGEOUS SELF- EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO BEGIN A NEW PAHSE IN OUR STRUGGLE, BE IT IN OPPOSITION OR IN GOVERNMENT." MOREOVER, " FOR THIS RE- EXAMINATION TO BE USEFUL AND SERIOUS, WE MUST COMBAT IN OURSELVES UNEXTINGUISHED TENDENCIES TO ENGAGE IN VERBAL MAXIMALISM, AND INCLINATIONS TO RADICALIZE."

4. IN THE COURSE OF TRANSITION FROM CAPITALISM TO SOCIALISM, DE MARTINO WARNED, SOCIALISTS MUST NOT EXPECT TO FIND " MIRACULOUS PRESCRIPTIONS" BUT MUST INSTEAD SEEN SOUND ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE. " THE NEW SCOPE OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT", HE CONCLUDES, " MUST NOT BE TO MECHANICALLY REPEAT OLD FORMULAS NOR TO IDENTIFY SOCIALISM WITH NATIONALIZATION OF ENTERPRISES, BUT RATHER TO FIND TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL FORMS CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING MAXIMUM LIBERTY TO MANKIND, CASTING OFF OLD OR NEW CHAINS THAT HAMPER THE FREE EXPRESSION OF HUMAN PERSONALITY."

5. COMMENT: DOCUMENT CONSTITUTES UNUSUALLY CLEAR AND SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMITMENT OF PSI TO PRAGMATIC CONCEPT OF ITS OWN ROLE, AND IS DIRECT REBUKE TO MANCINI AND MAXIMALISTS OF PARTY' S LEFT. STRANGELY, IT HAS RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED ATTENTION IN PRESS AND HAS EVOKED VIRTUALLY NO PUBLIC COMMENT BY LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES. NONETHELESS, IT LAYS IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS IN POLITICAL LINE AND RECANTING OF PAST ERRORS THAT WILL BECOME NECESSARY IF PSI IS EVENTUALLY TO BE READMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

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